



# rivers&trails

National  
Park  
Service



*rivers, trails, and conservation assistance program*

## GROUNDWORK – NEW ORLEANS

### Mission and Goals

Groundwork New Orleans will assist the City in bringing industrial areas that need remediation back into commerce, while providing the community's workers with marketable skills. Removing pockets of blight will help to strengthen the City's infrastructure. The job training aspect of Groundwork New Orleans will broaden residents' skill base and promote environmental education and community loyalty.

The City of New Orleans is targeting programs and resources in seven Neighborhood Improvement Zones. These Improvement Zones are deteriorating neighborhoods adjacent to economically vital neighborhoods that, if turned around, will piggy-back off of the success of their neighbors. Concurrent with the goals of the Brownfields Showcase Communities, environmental groups along with citizen groups are eager to establish a Groundwork New Orleans organization to promote environmental protection, economic redevelopment and community revitalization through the assessment, cleanup and sustainable reuse of brownfields. In New Orleans, Brownfield rehabilitation produces a synergy of benefits including neighborhood improvement, job training and environmental education. Groundwork New Orleans can serve as an integral partner in a coordinated attack on the identified community problems.

### Current Status

In process of signing Cooperative Agreements between NPS and City of New Orleans to undertake feasibility study and establish Groundwork New Orleans Inc.

### Potential Projects

- **Butterfly Gardens.** Partnering with Friends of the New Orleans Recreational Department, a non-profit organization that supports the New Orleans Recreational Department (NORD), to create butterfly gardens in the parks that have been rehabilitated.
- **World-class Sculpture Garden.** Partnering with a private developer in the Bywater area of New Orleans, who is in line to be the country's first recipient of a loan from the Brownfields Clean-up Revolving Loan Fund. A world-class sculpture garden is proposed on the levee across from the current brownfield redevelopment project. This area is currently economically impoverished, but will be enhanced by the planned extension of the street-car line that will end at the intersection of the area slated for the sculpture park.



*Blighted Streetscape*

- **Lawn-care Maintenance.** Surveyed residents have suggested a lawn-care maintenance equipment warehouse as a potential Groundwork Trust project.

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- **Incinerator Sites.** Transformation of one of the city's old incinerator sites into a recreation and greenspace area would be a larger and more long-term undertaking.
- **Louisiana's First Truck Stop.** The conversion of Louisiana's first truck stop, now privately owned with a potential 20 year lease by the Fish and Wildlife, into a nature center with access to Bayou Salvage, a National Wildlife Refuge.



*Brownfield Site*

### Partners

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